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East Texas News and Events

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EAST TEXAS NEWS AND NOTES

By Scott Sosebee

William Seale delivered the Eleventh Georgiana and Max S. Lale Lecture at Stephen F. Austin State University on September 27, 2007. Seale, a native East Texan, is an independent historian who specializes in the restoration of historic houses, including work on The White House. His lecture was a lively and well-received talk on "the people's house," and included wonderful vignettes on the famous residents of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, their families, and even their pets. Once again, with help from Association members and the faculty, staff, and students of Stephen F. Austin State University, the Lale Lecture was held to a full house.

Nacogdoches and the Fredonia Hotel once again hosted the Association's Fall 2007 meeting on September 27-29, and for the third consecutive year we had over 200 members and guests attend the gathering. Beverly Rowe, chair of the program committee with assistance from Ken Howell, John Crain, Mel Johnson, Jonathan Garland, Scott Sosebee, Kevin Brady, and Ricky Dobbs, arranged an outstanding program with twenty-three sessions involving ninety-three scholars/presenters/chairs. A highlight of the meeting included a session that celebrated the publication of *The Devil's Triangle: Ben Bickerstaff, Northeast Texans, and the War of Reconstruction in Texas* by James Smallwood, Kenneth Howell, and Carol Taylor. *The Devil's Triangle* is the second issue in the Bob and Doris Bowman East Texas History Series. President Dan Utley was unable to attend the meeting due to a medical emergency, but Cynthia Beeman read President Utley's address during the Friday evening banquet with resounding success. Noted historian Robert Utley delivered the keynote speech at the Saturday luncheon/business meeting, a full talk entitled "The Texas Rangers: Then and Now."

On Saturday, the Association also held its annual fall awards ceremony. Karen Kossie-Chernyscv's "Constructing Good Success: the Church of God in Christ and Social Uplift in East Texas, 1910-1935" was selected as the best article to appear in the Spring 2006 edition of the *East Texas Historical Journal*. The Ottis Lock Award Committee presented research assistance awards to Carol Taylor, Jennifer Brancato, and John Garbutt. The Lock Committee's Best Book Awards went to Jack Selden's *Return: The Parker Story*, and *Freedom Colonies: Independent Black Texans in the Time of Jim Crow*, by Thad Sitton and Jim Conrad. The Ottis Lock Educator of the Year was John Storey, chairman of the Department of History at Lamar University. Mattie Dellinger of Center received the Best of East Texas Award. Miss Dellinger is a legendary East Texas personality who has been active in radio and journalism. The East Texas Fellows Committee named Ty Cashion of Sam Houston State University as a Fellow of the Association. Cashion is a past president of the East Texas Historical Association and an award-winning Texas history author, whose works include *A Texas Frontier: The Clear Fork Country and Fort Griffin, 1840-1887* and *Pigskin Pulpit: A Social History of Texas High School Football Coaches*.

The Association will hold its spring 2008 meeting in Tyler. The dates are February 15-16 and we hope all members will attend. Program chairs Jeffrey Owens and Linda Cross have prepared a great program as well as made superb local arrangements. The Holiday Inn Select will serve as the host facility, an exciting venue for our meeting as it is Tyler's finest hotel. The Holiday Inn is conveniently located at 5701 South Broadway and is adjacent to numerous restaurants and shopping opportunities.

Our West Texas cousins have once again demonstrated the grace to invite East Texans to their spring meeting. The 2008 West Texas Historical Association conference will be held on April 4-5 in the beautiful Panhandle city of Canyon. If you have never visited Canyon this is a perfect opportunity to see this "hidden gem." Canyon is the home of West Texas A&M University, the superb Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, and is the gateway to scenic Palo Duro Canyon State Park. There will be an ETHA session at the gathering with members Joe Early and Bill O'Neal tentatively slated to give papers. The West Texans are still formulating plans and a program, so for additional information contact the WTHA offices at either wthayb@ttu.edu or (806) 742-9076.

Another spring event of note to ETHA members is the Twelfth Annual Cotton and Rural History Conference on April 19 at the Audie Murphy/American Cotton Museum in Greenville. The event will be from 9:30-1:30 P.M. and our own James Smallwood will be the keynote speaker. There is a registration fee of \$10, but the price includes a catered barbeque buffet. Advance reservations may be made by contacting the Audie Murphy/American Cotton Museum, 600 Interstate 30 East, P.O. Box 347, Greenville, TX 75403, or by calling (903) 454-1990 or (903) 450-4502. Contact Kyle Wilkison (kwilkison@ccc.edu) or Jim Conrad (james_conrad@tamu-commerce.edu) for more information.

The Association has undergone a personnel change. Associate Director/Managing Editor Mark Barringer has had to step down from his position. Last year Mark accepted a new appointment at SFA as associate dean of the College of Liberal and Applied Arts, but he continued his tireless and selfless work for the Association. As the fall semester began, Dr. Brian Murphy, SFA's new dean of Liberal and Applied Arts requested that Dr. Barringer accept a full-time assignment as associate dean. Unfortunately, the new job meant that Mark had to leave his Association position. We all wish Mark the best in his new responsibilities and heartily thank him for all his efforts on behalf of the Association. He will be missed in his former duties, but Mark will no doubt continue to be involved in the Association in other capacities.

To fill Dr. Barringer's position, the Association board accepted Executive Director Archie McDonald's recommendation that Scott Sosebee become the new associate director/managing editor of the *Journal*. Sosebee came to Stephen F. Austin in the fall of 2007 to fill the position of Texas/Southern historian and he is sure that his limitation as a native West Texan will in no way hinder his newfound ardor for East Texas.

The Association website is currently undergoing a number of major changes. Members can now register online for all meetings as well as purchase books in the Bob and Doris Bowman East Texas History series and the Ann and Lee Lawrence East Texas History series. Other changes are in the works; visit the site often at <http://www.easttexashistorical.org/> to view the construction as it occurs.